

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract with the following paragraph:

- - ~~Disclosed is a~~ A process for the preparation of small particles through precipitation is provided. ~~The present invention relates to such a process which employs a fluid solution comprising a solvent and solute to be precipitated and a non-gaseous antisolvent, said where the solvent being is soluble in or miscible with the antisolvent, and said the solute being is substantially insoluble in the antisolvent[[5.]] wherein the~~ The process comprises the successive steps of: (a) feeding a stream of a fluid solution and a stream of the antisolvent into a mixing zone where both streams are thoroughly mixed to achieve a condition of super saturation ~~while ensuring that hardly any nucleation occurs during the mixing;~~ (b) feeding the resulting mixture of the fluid solution and the antisolvent into a nucleation zone allowing nucleation to commence; (c) allowing the nuclei formed in the nucleation zone to grow to particles with a volume weighted average diameter of no more than 50 μm , ~~preferably of no more than 7 μm ;~~ and d) collecting the particles and separating them from the antisolvent. - -

At page 4, before "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following paragraphs:

- - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a schematic representation of a part of the apparatus that may suitably be used to carry out the process according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows a schematic representation of a complete apparatus that can be used to carry out the process according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows a representation of an alternative embodiment of an apparatus that can be used to carry out the process according to the present invention. - -

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 28 with the following paragraph:

- - The admixture of additional solvent antisolvent, besides speeding up the particle growth process, additionally offers the advantage that it can be used to remove virtually all of the solvent contained in the precipitated particles. Removal of the entrapped solvent makes it easier to recover the particles, but is also highly desirable from an environmental and health safety perspective. Thus, in a particularly preferred embodiment, the additional antisolvent is admixed in an amount effective to reduce the solvent content of the collected particles to less than 1 wt.%, more preferably to less than 0.1 wt.% and most preferably to less than 0.01 wt.%. - -